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Message Text

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40
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /123 W
---------- 053770
P R 151735Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0483
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02607

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, ER, GE, GW, WB
SUBJECT: FEB 14 TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING

REF: BONN 2172

1. AT FEB 15 BONN GROUP MEETING THE FONOFF REP (LUECKING) BRIEFED ALLIES ON BASIS PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM FRG DEL LEADER WULF ON PREVIOUS DAY'S INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING. WULF HAD REPORTED THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT THE NINE HOUR SESSION IN EAST BERLIN HAD BEEN "REALLY UNFRIENDLY," AND THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD "SPIT POISON AT EACH OTHER," LUECKING SAID. THERE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN NO AGREEMENT ON THE EVENTS OF FEB 1-4, BUT GDR DEL LEADER FRIEDRICHS HAD CONCEDED THAT "UNUSUAL CONTROLS" HAD BEEN MADE ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES JAN 26. NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14, PROBABLY IN BONN.

2. FRIEDRICHS MADE TWO STATEMENTS WHICH EVIDENTLY DEEPLY IMPRESSED HIS WEST GERMAN INTERLOCUTORS. HE SAID
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THE GDR "WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS RIGHT TO (TAKE) APPROPRIATE

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MEASURES IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION TO BE DISPUTED." FRIEDRICHS ALSO TOLD FRG REPS THE GDR "REFERS IN THIS CASE TO GENERAL, BASIC INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS, FROM WHICH (THE GDR) DEDUCES THAT ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS CANNOT BE RESTRICTED."

3. LUECKING REPORTED THE FRG DEL HAD REJECTED THESE ARGUMENTS, NOTING THAT ONLY MEASURES ENUMERATED IN ARTICLE 9 OF TRANSIT AGREEMENT WERE PERMITTED TO GDR. FRG REPS ALSO REFERRED TO QA IN REBUTTING GDR CHANGES.

4. MEANWHILE, AT THE FEB 15 VON WECHMAR PRESS CONFERENCE, A TRANSPORT MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID ONLY THAT ALL TRANSIT PROBLEMS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, AND THAT THE DISCUSSION WOULD CONTINUE AT THE NEXT TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING. VON WECHMAR SAID DETAILS OF THE MEETING, LIKE THOSE OF GAUS-NIER MEETINGS, ARE CONFIDENTIAL. (COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW LONG THEY REMAIN SO IF OPPOSITION GUNS OPEN UP AS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.) VON WECHMAR SAID GDR REPS HAD BEEN TOLD THE TRANSIT DIFFICULTIES WERE TA VIOLATIONS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT ON FEB 4, AROUND 22,000 PEOPLE HAD TRAVELLED TO AND FROM BERLIN ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES, AND ONLY 3 COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN RAISED. COMMENT: AS IN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL), FRG SPOKESMEN APPEARED TO BE PUTTING STRESS ON DEMONSTRABLY SMALL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS FEB 4 RATHER THAN ON PERHAPS GREATER FEB 1 GDR INTERFERENCE WITH TRANSIT TRAVELLERS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS WE LEARN OF FEB 14 TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING.
HILLENBRAND

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